

**The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer  
for Arab States in Cairo - Capacity Building for the Implementation of  
the Basel Convention**

**Phase 1 (2006 – 2010)**

**Project identification**

- |            |                                |   |
|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Title of sub programme</b>  | 3 - A Better Environment for Human Health and Well-Being  |
| <b>1.2</b> | <b>Title of project</b>        | The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States in Cairo - Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Basel Convention   |
| <b>1.3</b> | <b>Project number</b>          |   |
| <b>1.4</b> | <b>Geographic scope</b>        | Arabic speaking countries and territories in Africa and West Asia (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen) |
| <b>1.5</b> | <b>Implementation</b>          | External - The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Arabic Speaking Countries in Egypt, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP/SBC) and with support from the Government of Finland  |
| <b>1.6</b> | <b>Duration of the project</b> | 36 months      Commencing: January 2005<br>Completion: December 2007  |

## **The Basel Convention**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989, and entered into force on 5 May 1992. The Convention is the response of the international community to the problems caused by worldwide production of wastes which are hazardous to people or the environment because they are toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic, or infectious.

The main principles of the Basel Convention are:

- ◆ Transboundary movements of hazardous wastes should be reduced to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management.
- ◆ Hazardous waste should be treated and disposed of as close as possible to their source of generation.
- ◆ Hazardous waste generation should be reduced and minimised at source.
- ◆ Export of hazardous waste from annex VII to non-annex VII countries is banned (annex VII lists OECD, EU and Liechtenstein). Hazardous waste is defined in annex VIII of the Basel Convention.

In order to achieve these principles, the Convention aims to:

- ◆ Control all transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes.
- ◆ Provide assistance regarding the implementation of the Basel Convention.
- ◆ Provide assistance for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.
- ◆ Monitor and prevent illegal traffic in hazardous wastes.
- ◆ Promote co-operation in this field between the Parties to the Convention.

## **The Basel Convention Regional Centres**

Article 14 of the Basel Convention provides for the establishment of Regional Centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimisation of their generation. The main goal of the Regional Centres is to strengthen the capacity of governments of the regions for the implementation of the Basel Convention, both technically and legally/institutionally.

The fifth Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention placed the Regional Centres high on the agenda for the Convention's next decade, seeing them as a logical and efficient means for raising awareness about the Convention's obligations and assisting in their implementation. Towards those ends, a central task over the coming years will be to design a more permanent structure for Regional Centres, based on a comprehensive strategy able to ensure their long-term sustainability and to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Basel Convention and associated decisions of the Parties to the Convention at regional and national levels.

A comprehensive strategy for the establishment and operation of the Regional Centres was prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention and was endorsed by the Second Workshop on Regional Centres (El Salvador, 10-11 August 2000). The strategy included, *inter alia*:

- ◆ Institutional arrangements for the Centres;

- ◆ Harmonisation of Centres' activities;
- ◆ Promoting collaboration with Basel Convention Centres in other regions and sub-regions, as well as relevant programmes and offices of UNEP, such as UNEP/UNIDO national cleaner production centres, and other organisations (e.g., industry federations, research institutes, NGOs); and
- ◆ Fundraising for the activities of the Regional Centres.

Decision V/5 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the parties called the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with the Centres, a draft Framework Agreement specifying the institutional structure of the Centres, the modalities of cooperation between the Centres and the Secretariat, and including a core set of identical basic elements for all Centres, taking into account the specific needs and priorities of the respective regions. The draft Framework Agreement was considered by the Consultative Meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (Cairo, 4-5 April 2002). The meeting recommended the following five functions as the core functions of the Centres:

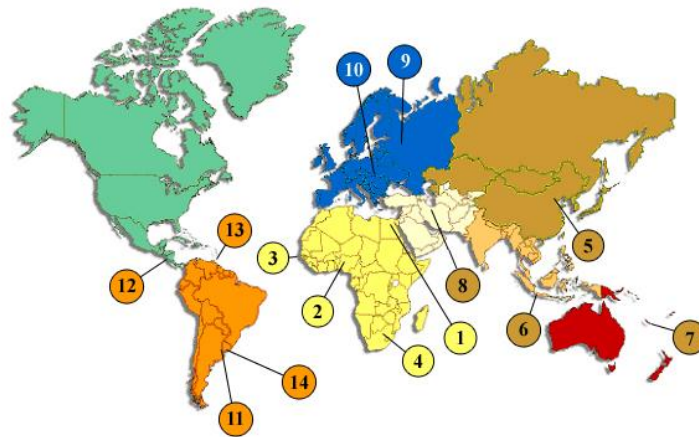
- ◆ Training;
- ◆ Technology transfer;
- ◆ Information;
- ◆ Consulting; and
- ◆ Awareness.

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 9-13 December 2002) considered the scope and content of the Framework Agreement and adopted (Decision VI/3) a core set of elements for the Framework Agreement to be signed between the Secretariat (on behalf of the Conference of the Parties) and the representative of the host countries' governments, including the core functions of the Centres.

### **The Regional Centre in Cairo**

The Regional Centre in Cairo was first selected in 1995, by Decision III/19 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Egypt as the site of a Sub-Regional Centre "for Arabic-speaking countries in Africa, which will serve the other Arabic-speaking countries. ", in 2002, by Decision VI/9 for Arab speaking countries.

The framework agreement governing the establishment and operation of the BCRC Cairo was signed at the Seventh Conference of the Parties in October 29/2004. The centre entered into force in 22/6/2005.



#### Basel Convention Regional Centres

##### Africa and West Asia

- 1 Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt
- 2 Basel Convention Regional Co-ordinating Centre in Nigeria
- 3 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Senegal
- 4 Basel Convention Regional Centre in South Africa

##### Asia and Pacific Region

- 5 Basel Convention Regional Centre in China
- 6 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Indonesia
- 7 Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region
- 8 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran

##### Central and Eastern Europe

- 9 Basel Convention Regional Centre in the Russian Federation
- 10 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia

##### Latin America and the Caribbean

- 11 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Argentina
- 12 Basel Convention Regional Centre in El Salvador
- 13 Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago
- 14 Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean region in Uruguay



## **Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Base Convention (the Project)**

The Project is part of the overall efforts of the Parties to the Basel Convention to develop the capacity of countries, in particular the developing countries, to manage hazardous wastes consistently with the provisions of the Basel Convention. The project reflects the objectives articulated in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the fifth meeting of the conference of the Parties, focusing on legal, administrative and technical capacity building through the network of the Basle Convention Regional Centres. More specifically, the project is fully coherent and compatible with the latest versions of:

- 1 The 10-year Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention
- 2 The functions adopted for the Basel Convention Regional centres
- 3 The Priority Work Programme for the Basel Convention Regional Centres for 2003-2004.

The project also echoes the call by the Malmö and Nairobi Declarations for effective implementation of the political commitments entered into by the international community.

In order to realise the long-term objective of the Basel Convention, the Centre is aiming to:

- Serve as a source of information and guidance for the region's countries in carrying out their obligations under the Basel Convention.
- Become an effective coordinating body for the region and regional sub-groups (e.g. the oil-producing Gulf States and
- Serve as a tool for developing capacity in the region, including in the area of legislative, administrative and technical management of hazardous wastes.

Finnish Government support the project is 1,255,000 USD (1,000,000 Euros) as direct project cost to the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. The Cost in-kind contributions from the Ministry of the Environment of Egypt are 248,900 USD. The total cost of the project is 1,503,900 USD

### **Project strategy**

The general strategy of the project is to follow the relevant decisions of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties, the agreed Priority Work Programme adopted for the Centres, the recommendations of the consultative meetings of the regional centres (El Salvador, 2000; Cairo, 2002) and the specific needs identified by the Arab countries and thus contribute to the 10-year Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

The initial task will be to ascertain that the substantive activities listed in Section 6 of the project document meet the approval/endorsement of the countries served by the Centre and to identify the eventual contributions that could be made by each country

towards their implementation. In the process of preparing the Centre's Business Plan for the period 2003-2004, the essence of these activities has been already communicated by the Centre to the national contact points in all Arab speaking countries. Judging from the still incomplete responses, the activities presented in Section 6 are welcomed by the majority of the countries of the region and could be implemented with eventual non-essential modifications, taking into account the comments and suggestions still expected to be received.

## **Long-term and immediate objectives**

### **Long term objective**

The long-term objective of the project is to improve hazardous waste management and waste minimisation in Arab speaking countries, enabling these countries to implement effectively the provisions of the Basel Convention. Elements of this objective include:

- ◆ Information on hazardous waste generation and shipments in all countries of the region;
- ◆ Legislative framework for management of hazardous wastes;
- ◆ Administrative structures for implementing of legislation;
- ◆ Enforcement mechanisms;
- ◆ Verification procedures (notification, consignment notes, laboratory analysis, waste transfer contracts, etc.);
- ◆ Information dissemination, public awareness;
- ◆ Promotion of public awareness campaigns in cooperation with industry and local authorities;
- ◆ Training of enforcement (e.g. custom) officials and waste managers;
- ◆ Collaboration with industry and non-governmental partners;
- ◆ Development of environmentally sound infrastructure;
- ◆ Development of wastes minimisation strategies and techniques;
- ◆ Exchange of information on best practice.

In order to realise the long-term objective, the Centre will aim to:

- ◆ Serve as a source of information and guidance for the region's countries in carrying out their obligations under the Basel Convention;
- ◆ Become an effective coordinating body for the region and regional sub-groups (e.g., the oil-producing Gulf States); and
- ◆ Serve as a tool for developing capacity in the region, including in the area of legislative, administrative and technical management of hazardous wastes.

### **Immediate objectives**

The immediate objectives of the project are:

- ◆ Establishing links and communication networks for hazardous waste management information exchange among the countries of the region;
- ◆ Updating the region's priority needs for sound hazardous waste management and implementation of the Basel Convention;

- ◆ Setting up mechanisms for maintaining adequate links to media, industry and non-governmental organisations; and
- ◆ Contributing to the public awareness on sound management of hazardous wastes.

Steps, which will be taken to achieve these objectives:

- ◆ Implement the work programme of the Centre for the period 2003-2005;
- ◆ Collect and disseminate information about waste generation, management and disposal in the region;
- ◆ Determine the needs of the region as a whole and of sub-regional groups;
- ◆ Networking of regional actors with one another and with non-regional actors such as: bilateral donor countries; multilateral financial institutions (e.g., the World Bank); global and regional agencies, organisations and institutions with programmes complementary to the Basel Convention (e.g., the Rotterdam, Stockholm, Kuwait, Jeddah and Barcelona Conventions, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, etc);

An important prerequisite to achieve the goals is action on national levels, in particular:

- ◆ Further development and fine-tuning of national legislation related to management of hazardous wastes. This includes two elements: (i) transposition of the Basel Convention provisions into national laws; and (ii) horizontal (inter-agency) and vertical (intra-agency) coordination of the structures responsible for the practical implementation and enforcement of national laws related to hazardous wastes.
- ◆ Capacity building aiming at: (i) improving the synergies for coordination of national efforts in management of wastes; (ii) increasing the awareness of the industrial sector and general public; and (iii) improving the technical capacities at all levels in order to improve the capacity to deal with waste inventories and patterns of waste production, and establish best practices for waste minimisation and disposal.